



For:
Ravalli
County
Commissioners

RAVALLI COUNTY ATTORNEY

George H. Corn, County Attorney
T. Geoffrey Mahar, Chief Deputy
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RECEIVED

September 5, 2007

SEP 06 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Ms. Judith Graff
107 View Point Drive
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Ms. Graff:

I am responding to your letter of July 6, 2007. Unfortunately I only read the first page of it which I did not believe required a response since my office prosecutes cases of animal cruelty that are referred to us by the Sheriff's Department. I am unaware as to whether or not the Sheriff's Office was able to find a suspect in the particular case you are referring to in your letter of July 6, 2007. However I am sending a copy of your letter to Sheriff Hoffman and I am certain he will circulate it among his officers and that will help me determine if they were able to find a suspect in the matter, and I will let you know if they were.

In the second page of your letter you have requested several items that would take a significant amount of time to compile. I believe the Justice Court records would be the quickest way to determine the number of animal abuse cases since in most of these cases, officers issue citations that go directly to Justice Court. If the person pleads guilty at the onset, my office is never notified of the case. Accordingly, the statistics from the Justice Court are the best way to determine the number and I will forward a copy of this letter to both the Justice of the Peace Jim Bailey, and Justice of the Peace, Robin Clute.

Your second question is a broad one and contains many subquestions. I do not have an exact count on how many animal abuse cases are handled per year. This office has approximately seven-hundred (700) open misdemeanor cases per year including DUIs, domestic abuse, animal abuse cases, etc. Thus, the Justice Court would be the best place for you to obtain this information.

Several of your questions can best be answered by the Humane Society and I would refer you to the Society in that regard.

COPY

Ms. Judith Graff
September 5, 2007
Page 2

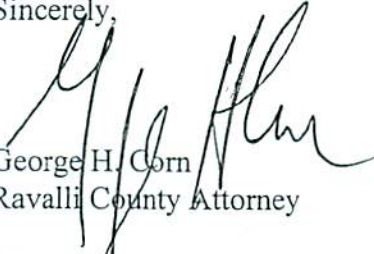
One of your subquestions asked "How many animals were returned to abusive homes?" I would have to say that probably, few if any, but I am uncertain of the exact figure.

Your fourth subquestion asks for documentation of "other passive or aggressive violence or addictions in the same environment?" My answer to this question would be that I am certain that if the Sheriff's Department, in investigating animal abuse, comes across other crimes that need to be prosecuted, those are also cited.

In summary, I believe my office does a good job in prosecuting cases of animal cruelty as well as handling our other prosecution responsibilities.

Lastly, on Friday August 31st, 2007, you swore at one of my staff who was trying to assist you. Such conduct is totally inappropriate. I hope you will reflect on the irony of such abusive behavior in the context of your complaints.

Sincerely,



George H. Corn
Ravalli County Attorney

GHC:hs

Attachments: as stated

cc: Justice of the Peace Jim Bailey
Justice of the Peace Robin Clute
Sheriff Chris Hoffman
Ravalli County Commissioners

COPY

July 6, 2007

From Judith Graft
10701 Lee Street Dr.
Hamilton, MT 59840

To - Whom it may concern
within our communities

- Bidderoot Humane Society
- Ravalli County Board of Supervisors
- County Sheriff's Dept.
- County Attorney

A few days ago, on a sweltering mid morning,
a neighbor, Sharon Laster on Wyand Ln. and
her son, Jim, enlisted my help. There was
a dog in a ditch close by.

We three returned to the sighting where I
discovered a delirious, dehydrated, boney
dog with a gash behind on ear, what appeared
to be a huge, gaping wound on almost
1/2 of the face and maggots in the wounds
and what appeared the eye cavity.
On a make shift stretcher, the shockingly
suffering dog was taken by me to the
shelter.

I implore all to prosecute the owner
and forbid any ownership of any
animal to the dog's owner.

Please do the right thing!

Judith Graft

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Ravalli

County's Office

July 6, 2007

as much as required from
the County Assessor's office
and Kathleen also call a gym 9 a.m. p.
the following:

- 1) A count of all animal abuse cases
over the last 12 months.

2) How many of the above

- 4) Number of open/unmarked

- 3) Number of prosecutions

- 2) Number by those prosecutions

who reimburse the B.R.H.A

for expenses including veterinary
care, food etc.

- a) In how many cases were animals
returned to abusive home?

In how many cases were there

- 3) In how many cases were there
documentation of other passive

aggressive violence in addition
in the same environment?

Shame on our country officials who do not step

up to the plate and be leaders in

this sad and telling dilemma. Now we

provide and that with animals, anyone we

as a community.

July 6, 2007
Kathleen also call a gym 9 a.m. p.
the following: